

The District 3 Slate

January 2001

County Supervisor Pam Slater

"I want to make certain right now that we do not forget why our residents came here in the first place. They came here because of the quality of life."

--Supervisor Pam Slater

Slater begins third term as supervisor for the Third District; Outlines her past achievements and goals for the coming years

Pam Slater took the oath of office this month and began her third term as County Supervisor for the Third District.

Slater briefly addressed the public during the swearing-in ceremony. Below is a partial transcript of her remarks:

I am honored this morning to be sworn in for a third term as County Supervisor for the Third District.

My charge as a county supervisor is to protect and improve the quality of life of all San Diegans. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board to accomplish that goal. And I look forward to working with the public to build a better future for us all.

And I agree with my colleagues that we must continue to ensure the fiscal stability of the County. We must maintain a healthy capital reserve, continue a policy of reducing deferred maintenance, and continue to make certain that our expenditures are prudent investments for the future of our region.

This means we must adhere to a strict policy of spending one-time money on one-time expenses. Money for ongoing programs must be identified, before we make a commitment.

Now I want to take a few minutes to summarize my plans for the new term.

Last year I helped to implement the replacement of the deplorable central animal shelter. But the work is not completed. This year I will make certain that our new

joint, City-County Central Animal Shelter is built on schedule.

And I want to announce **right now** that this year I will work to raise the money to build a new North County Animal Shelter in Carlsbad to replace the existing, dilapidated shelter. This is a county core competency that calls out for attention and our funding.

I am also looking forward to the completion of two county libraries in my district - one in Cardiff and one in Solana Beach. These are long overdue for our residents. We also hope to break ground on the new Encinitas Library, as well, this year.

Of course, **the arts** are an integral part of our region's heritage and our citizens deserve a venue for performing arts of all genres to express our artistic tastes, and our cultural diversity. In the new year I pledge to work toward building a Performing Arts Center near our waterfront in downtown San Diego that speaks strongly to that heritage.

I will also be working to establish a new AIDS Hospice to complement the work of Fraternity House, a shelter in my district. Although preliminary, I plan to partner with other political offices to assemble a Blue Ribbon Committee of concerned citizens in the region to make this happen. The Fraternity House has done an excellent job in running the Elfin Forest Hospice and we desperately need another such facility in the San Diego area.



Taking the oath: San Diego Superior Court Judge Roger Krauel, left, administers the oath of office to Pam Slater as Hershell Price looks on. Krauel served as Encinitas City Attorney during the time when Slater served on the Encinitas City Council.

In the area of domestic violence, my goal is that not one victim will be ignored.

I want to expand the service areas of the county's domestic violence response team to service all areas of San Diego County.

On January 24 I will ask my colleagues to approve funding for a YWCA hotline for battered women. This hotline is under eminent threat of closure. Last year this hotline received **16,000 calls** from battered and abused women.

As well, I will continue to work to improve home health care and nutrition programs for seniors. Last year I co-sponsored the second Aging Summit with Supervisor Jacob which resulted in additional spending of \$2 million to establish transportation programs for seniors. The goal was to increase their mobility and better their quality of life. In the new year, I would like to

expand that program.

And I will work to expand the Food For Thought Program, an initiative that I started, which combines the delivery of nutritional food and a library book for homebound seniors.

On transportation, I will continue my work with CALTRANS to create a viable transportation system to serve this region. This means more improvements to our freeways, and city, county and CALTRANS cooperation to build a regional parkway system. This parkway system will include as many as seven north-south, east-west routes to promote traffic flow, and alleviate traffic on our freeways and minor arterials. North-south, east-west traffic should not be running through the heart of our communities, but around them.

Additionally, I support a coastal rail system that is environmentally sensitive and

will be successful in moving people. On site parking, accessibility, park and rides, and timely routes are the keys to a successful system. I believe that cooperation with Encinitas, Del Mar and the City of San Diego will get a coastal, double-tracking system up and running **sooner**, rather than **never**.

Just as an aside, I will support an effort to extend the quarter cent sales tax if a good chunk of that money is directed to freeway improvements or parkway-level routes to fight gridlock. I don't want to see the money spread around on cost ineffective projects so that it has little impact. The public will lose confidence in their elected official's ability to solve our transportation problems if that occurs.

Let me close, by mentioning some issues of extreme importance to the region. These are housing, growth, infrastructure and open space preservation.

Although all eyes are on providing housing - and it should be - I want to make certain **right now** that we do not forget why our residents came here in the first place. They came here because of the quality of life.

Open spaces, parks, clean water and beaches are an

quality of life. Without expansion of our open space, and protection of our lagoons and other waterways, we will lose an irreplaceable component of the quality of life that we have come to cherish. I will never waver from my dedication to protect our environment because I know how important this component is.

More parks and open space are needed.

As our population grows we will find this component of our quality of life all the more important. I plan to work to strengthen our regional efforts to provide more open space and more active use parks. This includes county involvement in helping to build a regional sports park to serve North County.

I also plan to work toward further expansion of the San Elijo Lagoon and the San Dieguito River Park to provide deeper buffers to development.

Additionally, it is important that we do all that we can to clean up our storm water runoff. Contaminants in our waterways are a silent killer. Our beaches and lagoons are the unfortunate recipients. So I am going to increase my involvement on clean water issues and clean beaches. Our region's economic health, especially our

tourism industry, our environment and our eco-system depend upon our intervention.

With the help of the Ford Foundation and the San Diego Environmental Foundation I was able to help secure a \$1.4 million grant to set aside additional buffers for the San Elijo Lagoon. But more is needed.

To help in this regard, I plan to continue to seek grants and state dollars alongside our local Assembly members and State Senators to continue this important work.

We are at a turning point in San Diego County's history. The question we must ask ourselves is what is the carrying capacity for our region? How many people can this region support in terms of water availability, road capacity, open space, energy availability, and infrastructure such as sewer and water delivery?

Even the number of parks, athletic facilities and libraries must be reviewed. We cannot go forward accepting SANDAG's projected population increase for the county without a complete accounting of the region's existing services, and a realistic accounting of what we will need to maintain our quality of life.

It is not enough to say that

we expect 1 million more people to live here by the year 2020. We must ask ourselves if can we absorb 1 million more people without sacrificing our existing quality of life.

As everyone knows, the region must come to terms with how to provide housing and jobs without inducing urban and suburban sprawl.

We cannot add 1 million more people without viable smart growth options for housing and jobs. Nor can we expect beach closures, clogged freeways, and deteriorating air quality to be acceptable results of population growth.

We are perfectly poised to address some of these issues in the county unincorporated area. With the county's initial review of our new general plan, 2020, we are discussing many of these issues. There are no easy answers, but it is the first step in what I believe must be a region-wide approach to growth.

I want to close now by thanking all of you so much for your involvement in your communities and in working with the county as partners for a better future. I look forward to the new year and working together as a board, and with you, the public, to carry out the County's noblest motive, which is the public good.

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